Since outstanding dues from GEB had mounted and the GEB had not made arrangements to clear even the undisputed dues, linkages to GEB power Stations had at time been restricted to the extent of payments.

(e) The highest priority is accorded to the allocation and movement of coal to TPSs in the country including GEB, subject to transport and payment constraints. Coal supplies to power houses are regularly monitored at the level of Cabinet Secretariat once a fortnight and on daily basis by Railways and the coal companies and corrective action is taken whenever necessary to set up supply of coal.

(f) The future coal requirements of GEB will be met adequately subject to payment record and improving unloading performance by the power houses.

Coal companies dues against SEB's and power utilities

2024. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SEBs and power utilities owe large sums of money to the coal companies; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The total accumulated outstanding dues from power sector as on 30.6.97 were Rs. 3127.98 crores out of which Rs. 1501.53 crores were undisputed.

(b) Following step have been taken by the Government/Coal India Ltd. to recover the outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards;

(1) Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have been advised to supply coal to power utilities only agalnst advance papment or letter of credit. Cash and Carry Scheme is being implemented with greater rigour since 1.1.97.

(2) Coal India and its subsidiary coal companies have been persistently following up with the consumers in diverse sectors for settlement of dues.

(3) Recovery of dues by way of adjustment against energy bills is also being done in respect of certain power utilities. State Government have been requested to pursuade/enable SEBs to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest.

(4) Umpires have been appointed for resolving the disputed dues between the coal companies and SEBs.

(5) Government have recently decided to deduct outstanding dues as on 31.12.1996 of public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Power/Railway/Coal/Atomic Energy through Central Appropriation with the stipulation that the appropriation be restricted annually to a maximum of 15 per cent of the Central Plan Assitance for the concerned State irrespective of the number of years that it may take for the outstanding dues to be cleared.

Supply of coal to power station

2025. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal industry is forced to supply coal to the power stations even if payments for the same are not being made; and

(b) if so, how can the industry be financially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) It is a fact that sometimes circumstances demand that the coal industry supply coal to power stations even though there are payments due from them.

(b) If large sums of outstandings continue to remain un-settled, it will have negative effects on the financial viability of the industry. The Government therefore have taken the following steps:—

(i) From 1-1-97 coal supplies shall be made only on 'Cash & Carry' scheme.